



The Mallard

Issue 383

November 2023

MACMILLAN CANCER FUNDRAISING £100,000 TARGET REACHED THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT



We banked £7,660. This was made up of £2,200 from various sales, including car boots and a yard sale.

We received approximately £1,500 in donations, most of which qualifies for Gift Aid. The remainder came in on the morning itself, from the various stalls, raffle, auction, coffee and cakes etc.

Thank you to anyone who contributed or helped in any way. Too many to name individually but you all know who you are. Thanks also to those who attended on the day. Many having travelled several miles from outside the village.

As many of you know, our aim was to raise £5,300 this year to take us through the £100,000 barrier since we started supporting Macmillan in 2005. We well and truly smashed this. So thank you all once again.

Chrissie and Team



Pictures supplied by Bev Randall

WANTED—PLEASE PACK A SHOE BOX

It's that time of year again to fill shoe boxes for children for whom this will be their only present they receive this Christmas.

It costs £3 each box to cover the cost of transporting these and I would be most grateful for any donations to help with these costs.

Always wanted are small toys, toiletries, hats, gloves, thin scarves etc.

Many thanks for your support.

Please contact Jenny Borley 01485 520542



Mallard News

This parish magazine is published every month for the residents of Great and Little Massingham with the support of the Great Massingham Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and Massingham Village Hall Trustees.

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**Deadline for the
next issue
17th
November**

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QUIZ NIGHT AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 23rd November 2023 to be held in the bar of the village hall at 7.30pm.

Entry is £2.00 per person or £4.00 for non-members.

Either come along as a team, maximum of six, or join a team on the night. No need to pre-book.

The following are dates for your diaries:

25th January, 22nd February, 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 25th July and 22nd August. *(These dates will also be posted on the QUIZ page of the village website)*

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE DABBLING DUCK

This is a quiz run once a quarter to, unashamedly, raise as much money for local organisations that, in turn, might benefit the communities of Great and Little Massingham.

The next scheduled event is on **14th November 2023** when we will be raising money for Tapping House Hospice in memory of the late Gillian Gould who sadly passed away on 8th September 2023.

Entry will be £30 per team, maximum of six, plus there will be a raffle and a 50:50 bag.

There will also be a main course meal laid on prior to competition starting. This quarter's dish will be Norfolk Venison Bourguignon with a vegetarian option. There will be a charge of £16 per head for this with £3.50 going to Tapping House.

You must book for this event. At the time of writing we only have two tables left to fill.

If anyone wishes to receive more information on any of the above they are more than welcome to email me: robertcharlestaylor@live.com or call me: 07908 244421.

FILM NIGHTS for NOVEMBER

7 for 7.30pm

Members Night on

Thursday 2nd November

'Local Hero'

Thursday 16th November

'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'

£5 (plus a complementary drink)
at the Village Hall

*For help with transport call
Denny 07887 927 691.*





Community Lunch Massingham Village Hall Bar

MENU
£8

Tuesday 28th November

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Chicken and ham cobbler, mashed potatoes
and seasonal veg.

Followed by lemon meringue pie.

Come & meet friends for a chat.

The Bar will be open.

To book lunch please contact Deborah

Lambert on 07493 406 501 or, email on

mrsdl1965@gmail.com by Friday 24th Nov.

GREAT MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Friday 17th November **PROTECTING OUR ROYALS**



A Talk David Reeve

7.30pm at The Village Hall

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

BROWNIES & GIRL GUIDES

Members free, Guests £3 Bar open



3rd November

**At Great Massingham
Village Hall.**

Doors open at 7pm

Eyes down for 7.30pm

7th November

**for The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House
At Great Massingham
Village Hall.**

Doors open at 7pm

Eyes down for 7.30pm

CRAFT & CHAT DATES

From 2pm to 4pm

Village Hall Bar

Monday 13th and 27th November,
then Monday 11th December

HARPLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

FUNDRAISING CONCERT



THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH @ 7PM

At St Lawrence Church Harpley

Fundraising for local
organisations, Harpley Church,
School & Village Hall

An evening of music by ABBA, Simon &
Garfunkel, Cat Stevens and many
more....with mulled wine and mince pies

**NO TICKET SALES - DONATIONS
ONLY ON AT THE EVENT**

Great Massingham Fire Service Music Quiz

In aid of The Fire Service Benevolent
Fund

Saturday 25th November

In the Village Hall Bar

Please Come and Give Your Support

Rural Crimes Police Officer Contact

PC Chris Shelley 07900 407 106

Christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk



If you attended the recent Historical Society Exhibition in the Church at the beginning of September, you might have seen the Swallow Fish Shop sign, as pictured above. You might also have wondered how the sign became one of the Historical Society's artefacts. Ant Robinson, who you all know is our chief archivist, explains below.....

"When Jeanne & I bought The Barns in 1975 the Chip shop was just a wooden shed to the left of The Fox & Pheasant Pub, in Station Road. I can't remember if we used it or not. I think it was run by a Chinese Guy, but I'm sure someone will put me right. Over the entrance door was a hand painted wooden sign, beautifully sign written. A few years later, the shed was demolished and a bigger brick and pantiled building was erected. The old sign was rehung over the door.

I had, by this time, joined the Fire Brigade as a retained Fireman and one day got called out on my Personal Alarmer.

For some reason, I didn't have a car, so I jumped on my bike and cycled like mad to the Station. As I passed the chip shop, I noticed a JCB with it's digger arm high up over the roof, dropping it down and smashing the building to pieces!

I saw the sign swinging by one screw, but I was in a hurry.

After the 'Fire Brigade Shout', I cycled home, stopping at the big pile of bricks, timber roof trusses, etc. A few guys stood around and I asked what had happened to the old sign? One guy bent down and looked though the wreckage and said, "I think I can see it in the middle of the mayhem. I'll crawl in"..... And, lo and behold, he came back out with it! I asked if I could have it for my collection, of course. Hence it's here today."

Ant Robinson

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GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.30pm on Monday 9th October, with six Parish Councillors in attendance. Seven members of the public along with the Borough Councillor Alistair Beales were also in attendance.

The Parish Council regularly receives complaints from parishioners regarding dog owners that are failing to clean up after their dogs. This issue was once again brought to the Council's attention. This is unacceptable, owners are required to clean up after their dogs. If you see a dog fouling incident and/or have information on owners who are not picking up after their dogs, then you can report this to the BCKLWN using their online report form and track the progress of your report. To report dog fouling you will need the location of the dog mess and the details of the dog owner (if known).

Last month we advised that the Parish Council had noted concerns from a number of parishioners regarding the grass cutting on the village greens. The grounds maintenance contract has now expired with CGM Landscapes, and the last cut of the year undertaken. The Council has already gone to tender and received quotations from other contractors. These quotations will be considered, and a contractor approved at the November meeting for 2024.

The Parish Council is aware that parking in the village is an extensive problem, particularly during the summer months and has attempted to encourage visitors to the village to make use of the village hall car park. However, many vehicles do park on the village greens for reasons out of necessity. Given the amount of green space in the village centre and in order to protect the greens from further damage the Council is in the process of investigating the feasibility of installing protective matting in high traffic areas to assist in alleviating the problem. More to follow on this.

Planning is underway for the Christmas Lights 'Switch on' for December 2023. A date for the event will be agreed at the November Council meeting, so please watch this space for more details.

BCKLWN Small Grants Scheme—FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Borough Council's Small Grants Scheme can support a range of activities by helping to fund revenue or capital costs. Organisations that are eligible to apply include charities, faith organisations social enterprises and voluntary/community groups. The scheme is backed by the Norfolk Community Foundation, which supports more than 2,000 small charitable groups across Norfolk. Capital funds of up to £10,000 are available and revenue grants of up to £2,500.

Applications close on **30 November 2023 at noon**. A panel will meet early next year, 2024, to decide on the applicants to receive a grant.

Please visit the Norfolk Community Foundation website for more details on how to Apply

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **13th November, 2023 at 7.30pm**. Members of the public are very welcome to join the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

Although time at meetings for parishioners to speak is limited we would encourage anyone who has any concerns to either write/email/phone the Parish Council or speak to a Parish Councillor, so that these items may be included on a future agenda (as the Council can only make decisions on agenda items).

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School News - September and October

School returned on the 6th September. Everyone has made a good start and shown real enthusiasm to take their studies seriously. The existing children in Key Stage 1 welcomed the new Reception children with open arms and helped make their transition such a positive one. The Reception children have enjoyed finding their feet, along with their new classmates, through practical experiences, child initiated play, music and stories.

One of the activities for the infants in October was looking for heroes in nature and observing the seasonal changes around us. They spent time closely studying different leaves and their spectacular colours as well as feathers, conkers and more. *(see picture top right)*

In the juniors, year 5 and 6 launched into space week learning about the phases of the moon using Nero biscuits and cream to demonstrate their knowledge! *(see picture right.)* They investigated why the moon has craters. Also, with links to Black History Month, the children watched an inspirational interview with Maggie Aderin-Pocock and heard how her determination to be a scientist meant nothing would stop her from fulfilling her dream.

Children from years 4, 5 and 6 had a fantastic day at the Wisbech Grammar School Hockey Festival on Friday 6th October. They were very active and learnt many different hockey skills as they moved around to different activities.



At the end of the day, our two teams each played a game against another school. We were very proud of their sportsmanship and their response to the professional coaches' instructions. Congratulations to both teams who played really well. Finley, Freddie, Theo and Teddy scored goals and this resulted in our two teams being presented with trophies, after eating hot dogs, of course! Smiles and lots of happy faces!

(see pictures left)

We would like to extend a thank you to Archie Ward who volunteered his time to help out. The whole school took part in their Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church, on the 12th October. They presented a lovely service.

The picture right shows Reception and Key stage one children singing their own seasonal song together.

Years 3 & 4 recited a rap and years 5 & 6 gave us some interesting facts about food. Donations were also made for the Village Food Bank.

The event was well attended by parents and we really appreciate your support. Thank you also for your donations.

From the School Team





FUN FAIR VISIT 2023

A 'fun' time was had by all when Grays Fun Fair visited the village at the beginning of October.

They very kindly made a donation of £250 to the Parish Council, which will be used towards the upkeep of the greens.

We look forward to them returning next October.

(Pictures supplied by Peter James)





WHAT'S ON AT WESTACRE THEATRE?....

for much more information and to book
www.westacretheatre.com or TEL: 01760 755 007

Westacre Theatre presents

A Night at the Speakeasy A fundraising event for Westacre Arts Foundation, with live music, maybe a little roulette and other secrets...shhhh!

Friday 4 November from 7pm Tickets £25 each

Indigo Moon Theatre present

The Lost Forest Magical adventures with puppets for age 5+

Sunday 5 November 12pm Tickets Adults £12 Under 16s £10 & under 10s £7

Creative Workshops at Westacre Theatre

Life Writing Workshop Join writer Camilla Balshaw as you unlock the story of your life in a friendly group environment.

Tuesday 7 November 10am - 12:30pm £35 per person

Screening in the studio: The Cary Grant Season

North by Northwest.

Wednesday 8 November 2pm Tickets £12

Westacre Theatre Company present

Weekend Breaks by John Godber & Directed by Matt Grist Godber successfully combines biting humour with genuine poignancy in this thought-provoking comment on age, communication and life in general.

November 9th, 10th, 11th, 17th at 7:30pm and 18th at 3pm & 7:30pm Tickets £16 & under 16s £10

Creative Workshops at Westacre Theatre

Writing for Radio Discover the magic of writing for radio with award-winning playwright an author Christopher William Hill.

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th November 10am - 4pm £125 for the 2 days.

Screening in the studio:

ENO The Pirates of Penzance (filmed live in 2017) Directed by Mike Leigh

Sunday 12th November 2pm Tickets £14

Whiting's on the Wall presents

Horse Play The true story of Sprowston Boy; athlete, companion and...well...horse.

Thursday 16 November 7:30pm Tickets adults £15 under 16s £10 A one hour shadow puppet workshop at 1pm for £8

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL MEMORIES!

On Saturday 7th October the film of some of the Old Time Music Hall acts brought back many happy memories from thirty years ago. The evening was filled with laughter as we watched Malcolm sword swallowing, Sue upside down in a freezer, Bobby being decapitated and Paul having a poo on stage, not to mention Jill fighting a crocodile and the Massingham Muck Spreader spreading hilarity far and wide.

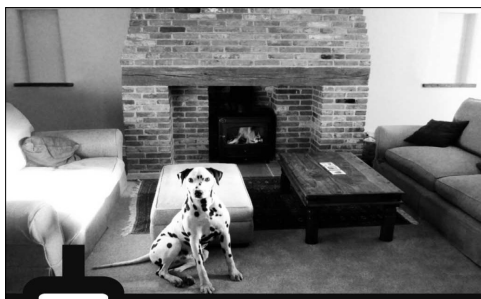
You weren't there? You don't know what you've missed! But have no fear we are already planning another one.

Oh, and by the way, you can order a dvd of the show for only £5.00 from me by phone on 520307, or 07765946668 or even knock on my door with a £5 note in your hand.

Besides all the fun we also raised £215 for the Village Hall.

Andrew Bickerton

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Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Sue Martin



Dear Friends,

November is a month I really like, not certain why, but I love the brilliant colours of the autumn and the stunning sunsets and... it's not long until Christmas! But there is a lot to do before then. We have been planning the Carol Services and other Christmas events at the church and other places. So do join us when you can there are more details in this magazine and next months.

As our Vicar, Rev'd Judith Pollard retired in July we are working hard to ensure that all our normal services are met and to help where we can for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Each of our parishes has a churchwarden and they are the first people to contact. There is a team of people who are working with the Archdeacon of Lynn in seeking a new vicar, which may take a little while.

Our schools have joined us in wonderful harvest celebrations in our churches and at schools. Donations have been enormous for food for the local food banks, and I thank all of you who have helped with these in anyway. It's so good to see our churches packed with song and prayer with every seat taken and standing room only!

November is the time for our Remembrance Services, always well supported and so important to remember those who have given their lives, or returned with devastating injuries, in service for our freedom. There remains so much conflict in our world and, as I write, I fear and am concerned about the people in Gaza and Ukraine.

At the end of November, we start the new Christian year with our season of Advent, time to spend together and look after those who are alone. Advent is about the coming of Jesus into the world, a time of hope and promise for us all. As we start to prepare for our own Christmas let Jesus into our hearts and feel the promise that he gives to us all. Amen.

Rev'd Sue Martin



Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham

'Let's Give a Quilt Hug' launch takes place on
Saturday 4th November between 10.00 am - 1.30 pm at
Little Massingham Church.

Come to see the first completed quilts plus more being made!

There also will be a chance to buy one or two craft items!

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham -
FOSALM - and Quilts 4 Care Leavers have joined forces to
organise the stitching together of a Giant Quilt 'HUG' that
will be large enough to wrap around the church!

FOSALM have been raising vital funds to help restore the church roof after thieves stole the lead. It is hoped this project will greatly boost those funds but will also help young adults who have been brought up in care. 'Quilts 4 Care Leavers' provide quilted hugs for these young adults who are leaving the care system and taking their first steps towards independent living.

This Giant HUG, made up from around 50 quilts will wrap around the church highlighting the need to raise money for the repairs. At the end of the project the quilts will be given to those leaving care.

When possible, the aim is to make the quilts from recycled cotton fabric. Volunteers are already helping, but more are needed. Can you help make this project a success by sewing a few blocks or perhaps donate and sponsor a quilt section?

More details of how you can help at <https://fosalm.org>

Church Services

November 2023

Date	Time	Service	Location
Wednesday 1st November	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 5th November	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Songs of Praise Morning Praise	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston
Armistice Day Saturday 11th	10.45 am	Remembrance Service	Ashwicken
Remembrance Sunday 12th November	8.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 4.30 pm	Holy Communion Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Dedication Service	Congham Great Massingham Little Massingham Grimston Gayton Harpley Congham
Wednesday 15th November	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 19th November	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Holy Communion	Harpley Grimston Great Massingham
Sunday 26th November	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Celtic Service	East Walton Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham Gayton Thorpe
Advent Sunday Sunday 3rd December	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Advent Carol Service Morning Praise	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston

For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at
www.ggmbenefice.uk

Advent Course 2023

We will be holding an Advent Study Course, beginning on Thursday 30th November then 7th, 14th, and 21st December at the home of Dickie and Rosemarie Bowers Orchard house, Lynn Road Grimston. Further details will be in next month's magazine.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 12th November there will be a 10am service at St Mary's Great Massingham followed by 10.30an at Little Massingham.

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Organisation	Contact	Phone No.
Allotment Association	Daisy Robinson	07979 723 288
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	Alistair Beales	By email only
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	520 450
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Council	Stuart Graham Dark	07450 679 355
Dabbling Duck Pub	Mark Dobby	520 827
Doctors	Massingham Surgery	520 521
The Film Night	Arthur Allen	520 628
Fishing Warden	Paul Smith	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae & Rita Gostling	520 259 & 520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Neighbourhood Plan	Jess Cunningham	520 056
Parish Council	Peter James (Chair) & Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	Clerk 01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Grange	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Kirsten Stibbon	520 362
Tennis and Multi-Sports Club	Steven Gould	07557 357415
Village Hall	Hall & Bar & Debs Lambert	520 588
Village Stores and Deli	Mark and Kerry Eldridge	520 272

Justin Anderson

General Gardening and Pest Control

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 Mobile: 07879 087497
 Email: justinanderson0876@gmail.com

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A BUSY AUTUMN LIES AHEAD FOR THE MAGPIE CENTRE

The evenings may be drawing in, and ponies growing their winter coats, but there are no signs of slowing down at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, based at Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE33 0EP.

On **Saturday November 25th**, we shall be holding a **Quiz Night** with Hog Roast Supper (plus vegetarian option) at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge, PE34 3PW. The meal includes a huge range of salads and home-made desserts. Dare I say 'All You Can Eat'? Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Bring your own drinks. Teams of 4 – 8 people are usual, but singles and couples are welcome to make up teams on the night. **To book tickets, £12.50 each, call: 07715 467866 or email: magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk.** All proceeds go to the Magpie Centre.

And finally, a note to readers who are responsible for booking speakers for their local friendship groups. If your group would like to know a bit more about Riding for the Disabled in general and the Magpie Centre in particular, we have speakers who would be happy to come along, in exchange for a small donation to Magpie Centre funds. Just call the Centre on 01553 810202 to be put in touch with a local speaker.



Great Massingham Area Community Car Scheme

**IF YOU DRIVE A CAR AND
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TIME.....**



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Neil.steed@btinternet.com

MOBILE LIBRARY NEXT VISITS

24th November & 22nd December 2023

Outside 59 Station Rd 1.35 to 2.15 pm
Outside the Church 2.20 to 2.40 pm
Weasenham Rd—2.45 to 2.55 pm

Some November 2023 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
2 Nov	Film Night (Members Only)	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
3 Nov	BINGO	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
7 Nov	BINGO (in aid of Tapping House)	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
13/27 Nov	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
13 Nov	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
16 Nov	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
17 Nov	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
23 Nov	Quiz Night	7.30 pm	Village Hall Bar
25 Nov	Fire Service Music Quiz	TBC	Village Hall Bar
28 Nov	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar